



Continental Chronicle

Fall 2010

NPS Announces Acquisition of Historic Pawling Farm

A land transfer that protects 78 acres of historic land in Valley Forge National Historical Park has been completed. The land and its historic resources will be completely preserved; its natural habitat will be restored; and it will be opened to all as high quality open space.

On the Perkiomen Peninsula, of which the Pawling Farm is a part, extensive open space already has been preserved by the NPS, Montgomery County, and Lower Providence Township, and this site is a keystone parcel that now links together a number of existing contiguous sites and enhances their aesthetic, recreational and natural values. The farm lies between the popular Schuylkill River Trail, the major regional trail linking Philadelphia and points north, and the River Trail, a quiet path bordering the river.

Restoration of the land, which has been farmed for three centuries, will begin immediately. Removal of exotic, invasive plant species will begin with a

volunteer project on [National Public Lands Day](#), September 25.

Beginning next spring, through a partnership with Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Wildlife Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the US Department of Defense, the former farm fields will be transformed into the rarest of habitats: high quality meadows.

Preservation of the land also means that the historic landscape and important encampment-era and pre-historic archeological sites will be protected. Mike Caldwell, Superintendent of Valley Forge NHP, called the land “a jewel,” noting that its permanent preservation is a remarkable accomplishment that honors and commemorates the endurance of the Continental Army and provides outstanding benefits to all Americans now and for generations to come.

For the full article, [click here](#).

Welcome to Valley Forge!



With the close of the summer season this past month, we should all feel a great sense of accomplishment. Many projects this past summer were completed, or came close, and it was thanks to our dedicated staff and seasonal employees, with the support of our partners and you, the visitor.

Washington's Headquarters has not looked the way it does in years. And as we make our way through the remaining months of 2010 the area will continue to transform, completing the train station platform, planting an orchard, and continuing land beautification projects.

Here at Valley Forge we plan to welcome the fall season with the annual National Public Lands Day volunteer event, as well as the return of many favorite programs like the Friends of Valley Forge Park's Speaker Series.

Enjoy this beautiful fall weather and see you in the park!

-Superintendent, Mike Caldwell

Park Improvements

Joseph Plumb Martin Trail

The most used trail system in the park has been repaved to preserve the 5+ miles of trail for the next 20 to 30 years. This multi-year project was completed in late summer.

George Washington's Headquarters

The famous George Washington Houdon Statue made its way from the theater building to the headquarters plaza mid-summer.

The 1920s train station rehabilitation project is nearly complete. The brand new canopies on the east and west sides of the station were constructed, and the west side completed. Watch for the east canopy to be completed in early fall.

Some routine maintenance as well as sign and wayside construction was accomplished by a group of volunteers from TAUCK, the worldwide travel company. [Photos of the event](#)

Muhlenberg Brigade Huts

The Hut Brigade, of Lockheed Martin, has been working diligently to improve and preserve the reconstructed huts at the Muhlenberg Brigade area and throughout the park. Their generous volunteer support is invaluable.



Coming Soon!

In response to the increasing recreational use of the park's trails, Valley Forge National Historical Park is introducing pet waste information and bag stations. Ten signs and bag dispensers will be strategically placed along the five-mile Joseph Plumb Martin Trail to encourage pet owners to clean up after their pet with the new biodegradable bags.

Look for the new dispensers early this fall!



Youth Conserving Energy

As part of the focus on youth programs, climate change, and sustainability, Valley Forge National Historical Park launched the Northeast Region, Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) - Energy Conservation Corps (ECC) Pilot Program. The YCC participants worked with staff from the divisions of maintenance and interpretation to provide energy audits and weatherization, energy conservation presentations, and outreach to park visitors. This is the first year for the program and the first of its kind.

The pilot program involves six young adults from the Philadelphia area.

Program participants spent two weeks attending training at the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA), a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to help people save energy and to promote a sustainable and socially equitable energy future for all in the Philadelphia region.

Participants learned about building science, weatherization, and energy audits. They took these skills and performed basic weatherization projects on buildings at Valley Forge National Historical Park, Hopewell Furnace National Historical Site, and Independence National Historical Park.

The participants also visited Hampton National Historical Site and Fort MCHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine to see first hand how geothermal principals and other innovative conservation methods and alternative energy sources work to conserve energy in historic structures.

In addition, participants provided the visiting public information about energy conservation measures they can take in their own homes to reduce energy consumption in order to preserve resources for the future and reduce environmental pollution. Outreach programs were brought to a local state park, area zoos, with partner organizations, and corporate partners such as REI and the North Face store.

Nathan Gilbert, a member of the YCC-ECC Team, says that the program's training taught him how to do energy audits in homes which he found valuable.

"It was surprising just how much air can leak through a small crack surrounding a window. These small leaks can add up, making your heating and cooling system work harder which adds up to a big cost with your energy bills" Nathan stated.

This fall, the program will be reviewed by management to be considered as a national program.

For more information on this program, including photos and videos, [visit the Energy Conservation Corps' blog](#).



Join us on Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Last year, National Public Lands Day (NPLD) was a huge success. More than 150,000 participants pitched in to care for their parks at 2,000 events in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and many U.S. territories.

Here's just two of the ways you can support the park and have a great time doing it!

Pitch in! Volunteer on the PC Knox Project with the Young Friends



Clear vegetation from the early 20th century greenhouse, the reflecting pool that sits behind the house, and help restore the beauty of the land. Meet us at the event tent at 9 AM. The project runs until 1 PM Get ready to "Get Dirty"!

Fill up at our BBQ Picnic

Refresh yourself and support the Park at a BBQ picnic following Public Lands Day. Make a donation and receive your choice of beef / veggie burger or hot dogs plus chips and a drink.

[More on National Public Lands Day at Valley Forge](#)

Learn more about the [Friends of Valley Forge Park](#) and the [Young Friends](#)

Stay in the loop!

Don't miss a new program or one of your annual favorites. Sync your calendar with our [Schedule of Events](#), become a fan of the park on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#).



Upcoming Events

September

25th National Public Lands Day

October

5th Friends of Valley Forge Park Speaker Series featuring Torben Jenk "Revolutionary Maps and the Compasses of David Rittenhouse"

10th Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben Commemoration

28th Friends of Valley Forge Park's Annual Reception

November

2nd this Friends of Valley Forge Park Speaker Series featuring year's Baky Fellow, Cheryl Collins "In the absence of public authority; beginning the American Revolution, April/June 1775"

11th Veterans Day Commemoration

Every Friday night in November is movie night at the park theater! The Encampment Store will feature different family friendly movies each week.

December

19th Annual commemoration of the March-in of the Continental Army to Valley Forge



The Friends of
Valley Forge Park